

Progress and Activity Report - Georgia Safe Routes to School Task 8

Through May, the Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center project team continued efforts to expand the program options and involvement of schools and communities in the Safe Routes program.

The team has secured 418 active school Partners with two new partners signed on during this billing period: Heritage Elementary in Bibb County and Stone Mill Elementary in DeKalb County are the newest Resource Center partners. The Outreach team conducted 67 meetings, gave one presentation, and participated in or contributed to 16 different events across the state. During this billing period, the Resource Center also announced the 2011-2012 Outstanding Partners of the Year for each region.

School Outreach Coordinator Activity Highlights

Coastal Georgia Patti Sistrunk, SOC

Jacob G. Smith Elementary, Chatham County (Gold Partner) and Charles Ellis Montessori, Chatham County (Silver Partner)

On May 9, 2012, for the first National Bike to School Day, two schools in Coastal Georgia decided to work collectively to have an event. Champions and committees at both Charles Ellis School and Jacob G. Smith Elementary in the midtown area of Savannah organized a park and bike site, coordinated event volunteers, and mapped out a safe route to school. Working with the Savannah Bicycle Campaign (Friend), Safe Kids Savannah (Friend), and Patti, the event attracted over 100 students and many volunteers, families, and staff from each school to Hull Park. Hull Park is located about one mile from each school. Students gathered, were given incentives from the Resource Center and Safe Kids, and then rode together to their respective schools. Staff helped students know which group to follow by manning intersections with directional signs. Volunteer crossing guards kept students safe at the busier intersections, and brightly-clthed Savannah Bicycle Campaign members rode alongside students. Many students also chose to walk or scooter to school. Jacob G. Smith was named the Partner of the Year for the Coastal Region in May.



Haven Elementary, Chatham County (Silver Partner)

Haven Elementary in Savannah moved up to Silver Partner this school year as they completed safety education to students. Patti helped the school's SRTS Champion, Ms. Jean Edwards, coordinate with Safe Kids Savannah Coordinator Alison Gramza to schedule bicycle safety education for Kindergarten and first graders. The students learned why helmets are important, about checking your bicycle before the ride, how to safely ride in groups and with adults, and about hand signals. Each of the 130 students that attended the safety assembly received bicycle safety tip bookmarks from the Resource Center and a bicycle safety checklist from Safe Kids.

Central Georgia
Sandie Parker, SOC

Heritage Elementary, Bibb County New Partner (Bronze Partner)

Heritage Elementary in Bibb County asked Sandie to be a judge for the “Quick Think” contest. Quick Think is a board game in which 2nd graders test their knowledge and fast thinking skills regarding safety and good character. During the journey through the imaginary city of Foozerville, players are asked personal safety questions.

An example of a safety question asked is “Harold’s parents bought him a new bicycle and helmet. When Harold goes out to ride his new bicycle, he cannot find his helmet. What will should Harold do?” Answer: “Harold cannot ride his bicycle unless he wears a helmet. He could fall off his bicycle and really hurt his head!” Heritage Elementary became Central Georgia’s newest Partner after Sandie shared great SRTS activities that can relate to “Quick Think”. Heritage will be collaborating with the Resource Center over the summer to set activities to implement during the 2012/2013 school year.



Stockbridge Middle School, Henry County (Silver Partner)

Stockbridge Middle School a Partner with the Georgia SRT Resource Center since 2010 was named as Central Georgia’s “Partner of the Year.” As a relatively new Partner, Stockbridge Elementary School has hit the ground running. The school lacks sidewalks within a mile of campus, but is committed to teaching the students and their families about how safe walking is part of an active lifestyle and how regular activity could help prevent such a disease. Stockbridge Middle School walks with all grade levels one day a month during connections classes, with about 675 students participating. The school participated in International Walk to School Day and Georgia Walk to School Day and hosts Walk and Talk lunches. The school community looks forward to improving their walking and biking infrastructure and will have many students walk and bike to school in the future.

South Georgia
Nykia Burke, SOC

Clubview Elementary School, Columbus (Gold Partner)

Clubview Elementary school in Muscogee County was chosen as the South Georgia Partner School of the year. This school continues to make great strides to educate and encourage students to walk and bike to school. Innovative Walk-to-School Day themes which tie into classroom lessons, incorporation into Physical Education classes, and morning announcement highlights are just a few of the ways this school supports SRTS programs. On May 3rd Nykia presented the Outstanding Partner of the year and Golden Shoe awards to the School Champion and Assistant Principal, with the assistance of the River Valley Regional Commission.



Quitman County K-12, Quitman County (Partner)

Nykia traveled to Quitman County to meet with the River Valley Regional Commission and Quitman County Superintendent. Quitman County K-12 is a relatively new partner school located in a rural area of South Georgia. Pedestrians often encounter unsafe conditions, thus reducing the capacity for students living nearby to walk or bike to school or other nearby recreational facilities. Nykia presented several options to increase safety education for students and community members. She will assist the River Valley Regional Commission and Quitman County Superintendent in their on-going efforts to make the school a bike and pedestrian friendly area. Additionally, the River Valley Regional Commission presented an opportunity to potentially build a bike park in the future that would encourage more student bicyclists and provide a space for bicycle safety rodeos. Nykia will assist with development of those plans.

Metro Atlanta Nykia Burke, SOC

Stone Mill Elementary School, Dekalb County (New Partner)

The SRTS collaboration with the Dekalb County School System and Dekalb County Board of Health resulted in new school partnership from Stone Mill Elementary School. Located in Stone Mountain, this school is home to a large, transient migrant population which affects the stability of nearby neighborhoods and apartment complexes. On May 10th, Nykia organized a walk audit as a component of the Dekalb BOH's "Communities Putting Prevention to Work" Grant (CPPW) requirements. Crime danger, abandoned houses, and lack of infrastructure were just a few of the issues identified during the walkability assessment. Attendees included the school SRTS team, Dekalb Board of Health, and Dekalb County Planning. The Dekalb County Planning office has already begun notifying the Public Works Department of opportunities for improved maintenance around the school. Nykia will continue to work with Stone Mill and Dekalb BOH's SRTS teams to identify opportunities to utilize CPPW grant funds to improve walking conditions, increase education, and encourage more students to walk and bike safely to school.

Dekalb County Walk Audits

Also during the month of May, Nykia completed a walk audit at Panola Way Elementary School and assisted with planning and organizing a walk audit at Chesnut Charter Elementary School. Both schools have been identified to receive CPPW grant funds from the Dekalb Board of Health and will incorporate SRTS as a major component of that grant. While Chesnut Charter Elementary School is an established Bronze Level Partner, with plans to grow the program next school year, Panola Way Elementary School presented a new opportunity for SRTS Outreach. This

school currently has a small population of walkers with potential for a large increase in number of participants. Infrastructure, speeding, and crime were identified as major impediments in the area. Nykia will work closely with the school SRTS team, Dekalb School Board, and Dekalb Board of Health to obtain a completed partnership form and identify opportunities for CPPW grant-funded SRTS projects and improved student/parent education.

City Schools of Decatur



Nykia attended the final City Schools of Decatur SRTS Champion's Meeting on May 4th. Attendees included six of the City of Decatur partner schools, Decatur Active Living, and local SRTS supporters. Nykia presented 5 of the schools with Golden Shoe Awards for their outstanding efforts to improve the safety and health of Decatur's children and achievement of Gold level Partner status.

Northwest Georgia Alicia Hatcher, SOC

Crossing Guard Training – Dalton

In cooperation with the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, a Crossing Guard Training was held in Dalton on May 9, 2012. Carole Willis, School Crossing Guard Trainer & Supervisor, with Atlanta Public Schools and Judi Lawson Wallace, APR, President, Wallace Consulting & Training, Inc., served as the instructors for this train-the-trainer event. The dozen participants included School Champions, Police Officers, and employees of the Regional Commission. At the end of the training, the instructors graded participants on crossing children at a mock intersection and were given a written test. Those who passed will serve as trainers for Crossing Guards at schools in Northwest Georgia.

Floyd Middle School (Silver-level, Cobb County)

Floyd Middle School participated in the inaugural Bike to School Day on May 9, 2012 in cooperation with the Cobb Public Health Department and Safe Kids Cobb. Floyd has approximately twenty bicyclists each day, but not many wear helmets. Safe Kids Cobb provided free helmets and fit them for students who did not have one or had an expired helmet. Safe Kids Coordinator Amanda Walpole also spoke on the morning announcement about the importance of wearing a helmet and bicycle safety in general.

Northeast Georgia Andy Pittman, SOC

Partner of the Year Award and Helmet Safety Education at Cornelia Elementary, Habersham County (Gold Partner)

After several nominations in Northeast Georgia, Cornelia Elementary in Habersham County was selected as the 2011/2012 Partner of the Year. Andy from the Resource Center hand-delivered the award to the Cornelia task force which consists of school administration, law enforcement and representatives from the city.

The award was presented in coordination with Cornelia Elementary's Field Day where Officer Kevin Marsteller was leading a session on helmet and bike safety. Officer Marsteller supplied free helmets to raffle off to the students after each group came to his station and learned the importance of always wearing a helmet while riding and how to properly wear and care for your helmet. Cornelia continues to grow its SRTS program, and Mona Painter from the City says that their events have grown so large, they have become the most popular days at the school.



Norcross Bike to School Day

The Resource Center, Sustainable Norcross, Safe Kids Gwinnett and the Gwinnett County Fire Department teamed up to celebrate Bike to School Day with Summerour Middle School. Several students were chosen to receive helmets as part of the Safe Routes to School program. The Summerour SRTS Task Force picked eight middle-schoolers for its new bicycle project. The project aims to help each child earn a bicycle by repairing his or her designated bike donated from the Sustainable Norcross Recycle a Bike program. In total, 15 bikes have been given to the school as well as the incentive items given to everyone from the Resource Center.



SRTS Marketing (Toole Design Group and Outreach Staff)

Marketing Materials

A **bicycle education video** is being produced by the Marketing Team. This educational resource will instruct students on properly parking a bicycle and will include other bicycle safety tips. Some of the video footage is from Georgia schools.

The Team created and distributed a **School Year End Newsletter** via Constant Contact. The newsletter highlighted end of the year events, encouraged planning for SRTS in the 2012-2013 school year, and promoted International Walk to School Day on October 3, 2012.

The Resource Center Marketing staff is working to develop a **Way To Walk Audit tip sheet**. The Tip sheet will be ready for schools and community use in the summer and will aid groups in conducting walk audits.

National Bike to School Day

The first annual National Bike to School Day was on May 9. The Resource Center staff made website updates to reflect the event and provided new download materials. Outreach staff promoted the event to schools and provided incentives such as reflective zipper pulls and bookmarks with bicycle and pedestrian safety tips. Georgia had 22 registered event on the National website www.walkbiketoschool.org.

Outstanding Partner of the Year Awards

Schools and community stakeholders nominated Partners to be Outstanding Partners of the Year. This is the second year that the Resource Center has recognized partner excellence with this award in each region. Statewide stakeholder Friends including Safe Kids Georgia, Clean Air Campaign's Clean Air Schools, and Doug Joiner from the National Partnership for SRTS, acted as judges and decided the schools that would receive the award.

The following are our Outstanding Partners of the Year for 2011-2012.

- Jacob G. Smith Elementary School of Coastal Georgia
- Cornelia Elementary School of Northeast Georgia
- East Side Elementary School of Northwest Georgia
- Kingsley Charter Elementary School of Metro Atlanta
- Clubview Elementary School of South Georgia
- Stockbirdge Middle School of Central Georgia

Website, Hotline, and Social Media:

The website was updated with information about Partners of the Year Awards, National Bike to School Day and information, and new partners and partner information.

The Hotline received no calls in May.

The Resource Center's Facebook page was updated by the Project Team at least weekly and typically refers followers back to our web site with coordinated information. The Facebook page is promoted in email communications, on the web site, and on other materials as appropriate. Facebook updates throughout the summer will highlight the six Outstanding Partners of the Year.